

# news VI

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

BI-MONTHLY

## REPORT

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

### ★ In This Issue ★

League Hires Professional Lobbyist  
Petition: Telegraphy Examinations  
Petition: Disaccredited Examiners  
Appliance Interference Update  
Reader Comment - No-Code Ticket  
Amateur Licensing Statistics  
October VE Program Statistics  
Technology in the Year 2000  
Home Satellite Dish News  
New FCC Commissioners Appointed  
More on High Definition Television  
Two Way Wireless Wristwatch  
Lowdown on 900/976 telephoning  
What to buy the kids for Christmas

VOL. 9, Issue #23

\$1.50

PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH

December 1, 1987

## ARRL Retains Lobby Group on 220-222 MHz Issue

An editorial entitled "Defending 220: The Battle Continues" appears in the December 1987 issue of QST, the monthly ham journal of the American Radio Relay League. It mentions that thousands of "well reasoned arguments" have poured into the Commission protesting the FCC proposal to reallocate the top two megahertz of the 220-225 MHz band to the Land Mobile Service - Docket 87-14.

The editorial told how League president Larry Price/W4RA, has visited each of the FCC Commissioners to underscore the importance of the 220-MHz ham band to the Amateur Radio Service.

The editorial, written by ARRL's Executive Vice President, Dave Sumner/K1ZZ, also mentions that the League has been working since last summer with "specialists in the field of congressional relations to identify and make use of every likely source of support on Capitol Hill."

The "specialists" that the ARRL refers to is actually a highly skilled legislative lobbyist organization. We believe this to be the first time that the League, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, has retained polished professionals to persuade members of Congress.

While QST did not further identify the

group, we have learned that the firm retained is Chwat/Weigend Associates (400 First Street, N.W. Suite #100; Washington, D.C. 20001.) Government rules require that lobbyists representing the legislative interests of clients register and state their legislative interest to the Congressional Office of Records and Registration before acting in their behalf.

According to the October 24th issue of the Congressional Quarterly (Page 2634), Chwat/Weigend initially filed a lobby registration on August 10th, 1987, to represent the American Radio Relay League. Lobby interest was listed as "General legislative and regulatory interests relating to FCC Docket No. 87-14; 220-222 MHz issue." Further lobby reports must be filed quarterly.

We spoke to John Chwat, a partner in the firm, this past week to determine exactly how they were going about their job of representing the League in an effort to defeat Docket 87-14. Chwat, who was most pleasant and personable, said that he and his people were meeting with Senators and key Congressmen in an effort to reverse the FCC position.

A package of "information" has been prepared for Congressional use. John Chwat promised to send us a copy, but (as of press time) it has not been received. Meetings have



December 1, 1987

also been scheduled with the FCC staff. Chwat said he was working through the League's Washington Coordinator, Perry Williams/W1UED.

According to Chwat, the House Telecommunications Subcommittee has scheduled an important staff meeting with the FCC staff for November 24th. It is Chwat's intention that Congress' position on the 220-222 MHz issue will be clearly made known to the Commission. I asked John when he thought the FCC would be ruling on Docket 87-14. He said they "...may not get to it until March." In the meantime, Chwat/Weigend Associates will be making the legislative "rounds" on behalf of the amateur community.

## UPDATE: TELEGRAPHY HAM TEST PETITION

The FCC acknowledged receipt (on November 24, 1987) of the Petition for Rule-making filed by R. K. Adams, N4BAQ, of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, a Region 4 volunteer examiner coordinator. The petition, was requested by VEC's attending the National VEC Conference last July.

The Petition seeks to: (1.) change the wording of §Part 97.29(c) to provide for code tests of longer duration than five minutes and (2.) to revert back to the previous wording of §Part 97.21(b) which stated that telegraphy tests "may" and not necessarily "shall" contain all required alphabet letters, numerals and certain punctuation and operating prosigns.

It was the feeling on the part of the VEC's that it is burdensome to construct telegraphy examinations with all required letters, numbers, punctuation and operating procedure signs - particularly at the Novice level. A five minute 5-WPM Novice code test contains 125 characters ...assuming 5 character words (§Part 97.29(c). There are 42 different required characters.

The petition was assigned RM-6094 on October 19 and accepted for public comment. Surprisingly, the ARRL comments on the matter said that they did not vote on any issue at the VEC conference and therefore did not necessarily support any changes in the telegraphy examination rules. At the conference,

however, their representatives appeared to favor the petition and offered no objections to it. The League had refused to vote at the conference because of a dissatisfaction with the one-vote-per-VEC system ...rather than one-vote-per-region in which a VEC had coordinated examinations. This would have given the League 14 votes at the conference.

The ARRL comments on the petition opposed any change in the telegraphy rules stating it was not desirable to prepare telegraphy examinations with only a few of the required characters. They also asked that the matter be looked into further - with alternative solutions - before formal rulemaking. This also indicates the ARRL feels the matter is important enough to go through the NPRM, further public comment/reply comment and decision making process of the 1946 Administrative Procedures Act. (Minor changes are not subject to the Act.)

In August, 1986, the W5YI-VEC filed a Petition for Reconsideration also contending that code tests containing every character were burdensome. The FCC declined to make any changes in the telegraphy testing rules at that time.

## PETITION ON DISACCREDITED EXAMINERS

On November 23, 1987, R. K. Adams/-N4BAQ filed another petition with the Commission concerning volunteer examiners whose accreditation has been revoked for cause or apparent cause.

Referring to a recent petition filed by the ARRL asking the FCC to adopt rules excluding any previously discredited examiner from participation in the amateur testing program of any VEC, Adams asks that only individuals whose accreditation remains revoked be prohibited from VE program participation.

Citing the recent mass discreditation ordered by the FCC of volunteer examiners in Region 12 (which includes Puerto Rico), Adams maintains "it would not be equitable to the vast majority of of VE's in Region 12 for VEC's to refuse to accredit an honest person who has done nothing more wrong than live in the Caribbean!"

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?  
under "The W5YI Petition" program, if so, please send a copy of your Extra Class license, this signed statement, and a SASE to: W5YI Petition, P.O. Box 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910.  
I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I do not own a significant



## "INTERFERENCE TO APPLIANCES" UPDATE

Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SR, the Canadian amateur who was taken to court and found to be a "nuisance" is still off-the-air after two years. Ravenscroft's neighbors, Tim and Dale Houghtby, charged that his ham transmissions interfered with their appliances ...namely their clock and table radio, television, electronic organ and furnace.

The court did not deal with the question of lack of appliance interference immunity - instead found Ravenscroft guilty of being a public nuisance. He was fined \$2,500 in punitive damages even though the Department of Communications gave Jack's amateur radio station a clean bill of health.

The verdict was appealed and the fine has been accumulating 13% interest ever since. The Houghtby's made an attempt to settle, but Ravenscroft refused. The settlement proposed by the Houghtby's involved an offer to sell their house and move if Ravenscroft would pay them \$30,000.

The status of the case now is that both sides have submitted written arguments ("factum") to the Court of Appeal. The Houghtby's claim Ravenscroft has been uncooperative and probably has transmitted after being ordered off the air in 1985. They also say they have been given no assurances that interference suppression to their appliances will be completely successful.

They maintain that the argument that radio communication lies within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament and cannot be affected by Provincial law was not brought up at the original trial and therefore can not be brought up on appeal. No date has been set for the appeal to be heard.

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM, Chairman of the CARF's (Canadian Amateur Radio Federation) EMI Committee advises that many U. S. amateurs have contributed to help Jack meet his legal expenses, to date over \$39,000. The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club loaned the JRSD (Jack Ravenscroft Susceptibility Defense) Fund use of their P.O. Box #8873 (Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J2) to receive donations.

Mark W. Munson, AF1Z, of Woods Hole, MA, has been refused a review of a decision denying his Freedom of Information Act request to review copies of any complaints, comments or memoranda from amateurs or the FCC relating to the operation of his amateur station, AF1Z, or concerning operation of the "Black Sheet Net". On appeal, Munson narrowed the scope of his request to four specific questions. (1.) At whose direction was the investigation initiated; (2.) Was the investigation in response to complaints from other licensed amateurs; (3) What is the prospective duration of the investigation and (4.) What is the focus of the investigation.

## READER COMMENT ON NO-CODE LICENSE

We mentioned the petition filed by Ben B. Johnson/NY0O, of Washington, Iowa, in our last newsletter. Johnson suggested elimination of Element 1(A) - the 5 wpm Morse code test - from the requirements of the Novice and Technician class licenses. He says that "Novice Enhancement" is not enough ...written examinations are sufficient to insure potential operators will operate within the rules ...many people who could make a valuable contribution to amateur radio turn to other fields due to the antiquated Morse code requirement."

We asked our readers whether it was time to reconsider a "no-code" license which Canada will apparently be shortly authorizing. ITU (international) regulations do not allow high frequency amateur radio operation below 30 MHz. Johnson's proposal would necessarily require some adjustments to the present privileges since (effective March 21st) Novice and Technician level amateurs can operate in the voice mode in the ten meter ham band.

A few days after our newsletter was mailed we starting getting responses ...and they are still coming in! All seemed to be most decisive in their opinions. At this point, more readers feel that some form of a no-code amateur license is appropriate ...than don't. That is not to say that we did not receive some strong letters against it. We did. At this point, it is 70% for a no-code license, 30% opposed, but it is too early to really tell how you feel. We heard from all classes of people - from the long time seasoned amateur,

SALE DA: JIPP (Be certain shipping charges are included.) right! (One of each is only \$18.95 postage, 0-21 w.p.m.=\$29.95, ppd) PLUS Postage \$1.25 75¢ 50¢ each mailage \$2.50 \$3.00 plus postage



to the beginner. Some samples:

Ross Wheelwright/N5IHN, of Fort Worth, Texas, writes that a "no-code amateur radio license is long since past due. I remember as a Novice having the League send me an invitation to join the ARRL. Under the list of reasons to join was that they had 'killed the no-code license'. What a blow to a Novice." Ross says he "considers the code as unnecessary. ...with so many digital modes, why force CW for no apparent legitimate reason? The real people to change is the ARRL. The FCC is not the problem."

Sheffield P. Wilds/W4GVD of Pensacola, Florida, has been licensed for 50 years, says he is "...in favor of abolishing all code requirements for all classes as soon as international regulations permit. In the meantime, I would favor reducing the CW requirements to an absolute minimum for operation below 30 MHz and abolishing the requirement entirely for operation above 30 MHz. As someone wrote me recently, when you apply for a driver's license, you are not required to demonstrate minimum proficiency in saddling and handling a horse!"

Marvin F. Roberts/W0RQY (Topeka, Kansas) wonders about the number of licensees in Japan which have a no-code license. He says only 32,442 total amateurs are listed in the Call Book. (Answer: The 10-watt "Phone Class", which make up most of Japan's amateurs, are not listed.)

Ron Smith/WA4JNX, a teacher in Birmingham, AL, teaches a Novice class at his Junior High School. "Land Mobile is looking down our backs. The argument that 'no-code' will flood us with CB idiots is really false. We already have them... If you can pull this off, ...put no-code on 50, 220, 900 and 1200 MHz ...maybe 420-430, too, where we need help." Smith also suggested that Technicians be allowed the entire use of ten meters, with a single license class above Technician having all amateur privileges ...and a 10 wpm code requirement.

Leon Lewis/NA9Y (Indianapolis, IN) says that code should be a part of ham testing. "I do, on the other hand, feel that there

should be an option to the code test. Such an option could be giving the person twice the number of theory questions if he fails the code test. ...for a person who received a 'no-code' license, let their call sign be assigned from the Group D, NZX3 prefix block"

Mick McDaniel/W6FGE writes "...the time is upon us. In today's operations and technology the need for (and interest in) the use of CW is rapidly diminishing. I instruct Novice applicants on a daily basis. I hear what they say. 'I will learn CW (only) enough to pass the test, but I will never use it.' Listen to the new crowd coming along. They will be the old timer a couple of decades from now." (San Diego, California)

Ben W. Johnston/N4NUX (Clintwood, VA) says he is 69 years old and a Technician for 3 years. He feels a no code license would be a good thing for those who have no interest in telegraphy, but "is afraid 'Gabriel is going to blow his horn' before he sees it."

Bob Grove/WA4PYQ (Brasstown, NC) pledged the support of his Monitoring Times, short wave listener publication toward any effort in promoting a no-code introductory level amateur license.

Those opposed to a no-code license (such as Clay Langston, Jr./WB8ZMV (Port Orange, FL), Phyllis E. Saunders/N1BCF (Augusta, ME), Bill Anderson/KT5G (Midland, TX) and few others all seemed to have a common (and strong objection) - that being a fear of uncontrolled ham radio growth with the amateur community and the FCC powerless to maintain any semblance of order. No one has yet argued that entry-level telegraphy is needed for any any other purpose.

Many readers pledged contributions to promote a no-code license. The letters are still coming in - and we have yet to hear whether the FCC will accept the no-code petition that was filed in October as having merit. At this point, there seems to be support for some sort of a no-code amateur radio license. We will wait a while longer before deciding what path of action to take. If you haven't written us your thoughts, please do so.

W5YI-VEC  
 P.O. Box 10101-N  
 Dallas, Texas 75207  
 \$10.05  
 We have developed a complete Novice Package that  
 enables you to learn  
 everything necessary to obtain a ham ticket without  
 NOVICE VOICE CLASS PAC 1-1/2 Hr. "Learn the Code" Cassette Tape



## OCTOBER AMATEUR LICENSING STATISTICS

	<u>October</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	
First Time Amateurs:		1356	874	1002	
Novice Class Upgrades:		822	505	1103	
Technician Upgrading:		319	190	362	
General Class Upgrading:		355	187	323	
Advanced Class Upgrading:		213	178	236	
Total Amateurs Upgrading:		1709	1060	2024	
Total Dropped Fm Service:		2623	986	727	
Total Novices Dropped:		1829	600	400	
% Novices Dropped:		70%	61%	55%	
Change/Ham Census/Month-1210			+112	+545	
Month End Census:		410346	419311	430746	
<u>Extra</u>	<u>Advan.</u>	<u>Gen'l</u>	<u>Tech.</u>	<u>Novice</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>
(Oct. 1985)					
38168	97864	117268	83361	76466	413127
9.2%	23.7%	28.4%	20.2%	18.5%	
(Oct. 1986)					
40824	97788	116218	85495	78986	419311
9.7%	23.3%	27.7%	20.4%	18.9%	
(Oct. 1987)					
43479	98287	114487	92267	82216	430746
10.1%	22.8%	26.6%	21.4%	19.1%	
Club/Military/RACES Sta.		2781	2631	2412	
Total Active Stations:		413127	421942	433158	
Percent Increase:			2.1%	2.7%	

## AMATEUR APPLICATIONS PROCESSED...

Oct.	Form 610's	Licenses	Average
Year:	Rcvd:	Processed:	Time
1985	8,824	10,120	17 Days
1986	10,774	11,689	17 Days
1987	9,900	10,320	18 Days

(Average processing time is working days for applications received in good order. Some applications, such as renewals, are processed faster. 18 days = 3+ weeks + mailing time.)

## AMATEURS CHANGING CLASS, CALL SIGN

Oct.	Changed	Changed	Percent
Year	Class	Call Sign	Changed
1985	1709	810	47.4%
1986	2024	857	42.3%
1987	1060	587	55.4%

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.]

## OCTOBER VE PROGRAM STATISTICS....

	October	1985	1986	1987
No. VEC's:		*77	*75	*59
No Testing Sessions:		294	388	349
	1985	1986	1987	
ARRL:	58.8%	57.0%	38.1%	
W5YI:	11.9%	18.6%	31.2%	
CAVEC:	5.1%	7.2%	6.9%	
DeVRY:	6.1%	7.2%	5.2%	
Others:	18.1%	10.0%	18.6%	
Year-to-Date Sessions:		2,644	3,148	3,577
Elements Administered:		4,246	5,167	5,858
	1985	1986	1987	
ARRL:	59.7%	58.6%	49.3%	
W5YI:	9.8%	12.3%	24.0%	
CAVEC:	7.2%	7.3%	5.7%	
DeVRY:	5.9%	6.3%	4.2%	
Others:	17.4%	15.5%	16.8%	
Year-to-Date Elem. Adm:		52,781	53,178	67,132
No. Applicants Tested:		2,918	3,522	3,418
	1985	1986	1987	
ARRL:	60.9%	57.8%	47.9%	
W5YI:	9.7%	13.7%	24.3%	
CAVEC:	6.8%	6.4%	5.7%	
DeVRY:	6.0%	6.7%	4.2%	
Others:	16.6%	15.4%	17.9%	
Year-to-Date Applicants:		34,892	36,495	41,645
Pass/Upgrade Rate, All:		57.4%	58.2%	58.9%
Pass/Upgrade Rate, W5YI:		67.3%	52.4%	57.0%
Applicants per Session:		9.9	9.1	9.8
Appl. per Session/W5YI:		7.6	7.2	8.3
No. Elements Per Appl./All:		1.5	1.5	1.7
No. Sessions Per VEC/All:		3.8	5.2	5.9

## Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

Defective Applications:	1.5%	1.2%	1.7%
Late Filed Sessions:	2.7%	4.1%	1.4%
Defective Reports:	4.4%	0.3%	9.7%

\* = The FCC considers ARRL, W5YI, and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: Call sign districts 1 through 0 plus: Alaska (11) and Caribbean (12) and Pacific Insular areas.(13)

[Source: FCC, Washington, D.C. 20554]

## RENEW AT REGULAR RATE - "GIFT" W5YI REPORT SUBSCRIPTION AT HALF PRICE

It is time for our annual Christmas offer! Renew your own subscription for \$21.00

and "gift" another subscription for half price (\$10.50) - Mark all orders: **Annual Christmas Offer.** Every W5YI Report delivered to the "giftee" will indicate that it came from you!



## TECHNOLOGY TWELVE YEARS FROM NOW

● An article entitled Telecommunications in the Coming Decades by Stephen B. Weinstein, Ph.D. of Bell Communications Research, appears in the November 1987 IEEE Spectrum magazine. Weinstein says all communications will be digital - ones and zeros. Telephones will have accompanying video displays that can even list the names of several waiting callers with brief messages without interrupting the main ongoing conversation. Fiber-optic cabling will extend into the home and provide many services on a general-purpose lightwave network ...replacing existing telephone and cable-TV wiring as the conduit of high definition video-entertainment, ordinary telephone and many new two-way services. "Video on demand" will be possible. Broadcast entertainment will emphasize personal choice. Electronically accessed video libraries will become commonplace. Viewers will be able to call up specific background material on an athlete inset in a TV screen window during a sports event. Communication between people anywhere, anytime will be possible using intelligent, broadband lightwave networks.

● Sir Clive Sinclair, British inventor of the pocket calculator, and various other microchip-based electronic gadgets (including the first \$150 Sinclair computer which he sold bundles of via mail order) writes in the November "Mensa Bulletin" about Inventing the Future. "Only through AI, artificial intelligence ...machine effort rather than human effort ...can we hope to lower costs and continue our long history of rising standards of living. Soon the modern car will have a single pair of wires or glass fiber linking chips - each controlling or monitoring a function. Subtly, the intelligence of the system will take control from the driver. One day the driver will discover that the car is really doing the driving. Machines will fly airplanes. Commonplace private planes will take off vertically. No longer will roads be necessary to the countryside. Medical services will be met 'by a box downstairs.' A friendly face will appear and ask us our symptoms by name. The 'phantom mentor' will offer advice based on a data bank of the best possible medical and individual patient knowledge. ...A journey taken in a computer will be more exciting

than any real trip. ...The human brain is  $10^5$  more complex than a computer. At the present rate of progress, we are 25 years away from a machine as complex as the brain, and one that would be enormously faster. Not only will we match the complexity of the brain, but its size as well. Only silicon seems likely to become the foundation of the machine brain. Our android brain may cost more to develop than landing man on the moon or the development of the atom bomb, but it hugely more significant. Once we have an android brain, we can have as many clones as we like by doing massive file swaps from the original to the copies. Individual machines would also learn by the experience of their particular environment. Robots should be able to talk at data rates of gigabits per second over large distances. The first machine brain will be achieved by the year 2,000. By the year 2,020 we will have solved all of the programming problems and by the year 2,040, these machines will be in such large scale use that their intellectual gross product will exceed that of humans by a factor of 100. The coming age of robots should mean a total ending of poverty and an undreamed of level of wealth. Mishandled, it could end the world." (Clive Sinclair is Chairman of British Mensa, the high IQ group.)

● The October 1987 issue of "Mensa Bulletin" contained an interview with none other than Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, one of the founders of Mensa in America. He said that Japan has an IQ advantage of 8 to 10 points over the U.S and ...we need a college geared to the year 2,000. "We are looking at communication expanding by thousands of times the level we have today, and we have an educational system 100 years behind the times. We need to get people caught with the technology which has gotten so far ahead of everybody." Green's college would be a three year program, 50 weeks a year, 60 hours a week, with students working half the time in high tech industry right on the campus.

● 21st Century TV was pondered in the Nov. 23rd issue of Electronic Media. Some predictions... Everything will be digital, HDTV (high definition television) will be everywhere ...even in home cameras and videotape. The present NTSC television standards will be



phased out. Audio will be "digital surround sound." The use of robotics and automation will allow computer-controlled TV broadcast stations. Expect widespread advances in Ku/Ka band satellite and fiber optic technology. The movie industry will be solid-state electronic - film and vacuum tube technology will be a thing of the past. Viewers will interact more with their TV set.

- The first meeting of the FCC appointed ATV (Advanced Television Systems) Committee met on November 17th. This group made up of industry leaders will advise the FCC on the path that TV of the future should take. Richard Wiley, ex-FCC Chairman, heads up the group. FCC Chairman Patrick Dennis asked the committee to provide the Commission with the general technical parameters and timetable for implementing an advanced broadcast television service within one year. He set May 17, 1988 - six months away - as the date for recommendation on the necessary spectrum needed for ATV. The government charter establishing the committee requires that FCC personnel attend all meetings. Mass Media Chief Lex Felker (N4LF) and the FCC's Chief Engineer, Tom Stanley, will be the primary contacts. TV broadcasters are very concerned that they could be left behind by cable, satellite and other HDTV programming delivery methods.

- "SSN," the Shipboard Satellite Network began operation during November - broadcasting network television programming to 10 ocean liners (15,000 passengers) via GTE Spacenet II.

- The Senate Commerce Committee has adopted legislation (S.889) to regulate the backyard dish marketplace. The measure now heads to the Senate floor. S.889 would require cable programmers to allow any third party to distribute satellite programming to dish owners. At present, only cable operators share in programming fees paid by TVRO stations. The bill, fiercely opposed by the cable TV industry, seeks to provide additional competition and sources of satellite programming for the home satellite industry. Advocates of the legislation believe programming competition will lower prices ...and ultimately boost sales for the deteriorating backyard dish industry.

Under the terms of S.889, anyone convicted of manufacturing or selling illegal decoders or failing to allow non-cable entities to distribute satellite programming face restitutional fines of up to \$500,000.

- In other home dish news, General Instrument Corp. has announced the introduction of VideoCipher Plus descrambling in Japan. VC+ is an enhanced version of VideoCipher II. Home Dish Only (the satellite service that carried the Keith Lamonia/W7DXX FM America on its audio subchannel) has gone public. HDO specializes in adult satellite programming ...including the American EXXXtasy Channel, the "Hot Shopper Hour" (hosted by skin-flick actress Gloria Leonard) and the soon-to-be-launched TuXXedo Network.

- The White House has named two new FCC Commissioners. Brad Holmes and Susan Wing to fill the seats vacated by Mark Fowler and Mimi Dawson. Chairman Fowler left the commission on April 17. Dawson is scheduled to be the next Deputy Secretary of Transportation. Once Dawson leaves, the FCC will have only three commissioners instead of five. Since the law requires three FCC commissioner votes, one dissenting commissioner could block any action. Both Holmes and Wing (whose appointment is not yet official) need Congressional approval, but observers say this won't be forthcoming anytime soon. Congress is upset with the FCC for abolishing the fairness doctrine which mandates opposition response on political matters. If Senate Commerce Committee hearings aren't scheduled, look for Reagan to give Holmes and Wing "recess appointments", a loophole in the law which bypasses Senate confirmation.

Brad Holmes, 34, and Susan Wing, 40, have much in common. Both are experienced broadcast communications lawyers, conservative Republicans, share the same basic marketplace philosophy of FCC Chairman Patrick and, coincidentally, graduated from Georgetown University's law school in the same year, 1978. Holmes, a black and former legal aide to Chairman Patrick, is currently Chief of the Policy and Rules division of the FCC's Mass Media Bureau. Susan Wing, a Dallas native, is a partner in the prominent Washington communications law firm of Hogan & Hartson.



● Japan quietly is looking toward providing the United States with its Muse HDTV - high definition television - standard. Their timetable is to start selling HDTV production systems on the world market so that high quality local video programming can be produced. In 1989, Japan plans to market Muse-to-NTSC (the present U.S. terrestrial television technical standard) converters so that the nation's 130 million TV owners can receive HDTV transmissions on present day sets. Although not as clear as HDTV, the converted signals will be somewhat improved over the present NTSC format. The Japanese compressed-bandwidth Muse system provides twice the resolution of the U.S. NTSC system although it requires a wider TV channel bandwidth ...8.1 rather than 6 MHz. The following year, Japan will start marketing Muse receivers in the U.S. NHK, the Japanese Broadcasting Corp., plans to start sending Muse HDTV signals via satellite to the American marketplace in 1991. The Japanese can't accomplish their goal without FCC cooperation, however, since broadcast television channeling must provide for the wider bandwidth - a recommendation that very well could be made by the ATV "blue ribbon" Committee next May.

● CBS has sold its very profitable Record Unit to Japan's Sony Corporation for \$2 billion. CBS, once a diversified entertainment company, is now totally in the TV/radio broadcasting business. Sources close to the sale say CBS, Inc. was very concerned that the emergence of DAT's (digital audio tape player's) could turn every living room into a record pressing plant. CBS Records was the world's largest record company with some 10,000 employees, subsidiary record companies in 36 countries and the Columbia House direct mail record club. Their current stars include Michael Jackson, Barbra Streisand and Bruce Springsteen. Earlier CBS had sold its magazine/book/music publishing, toy and movie divisions. CBS, owns the CBS radio/TV networks, four television and eighteen radio stations. You won't be seeing "Sony" records in the marketplace, however. Sony insisted on retaining the well known CBS Records name as part of the deal. CBS, Inc. now has a whopping \$3 billion in cash to play with and everyone is wondering what they will do with it. Best guess? More television stations.

● Matthew C. Weiner, an M.I.T. student who speaks Russian and has studied in Lenin-grad says that the a new emphasis on the use of personal computers in the Soviet Union has come with the openness of the Gorbachev era. Previously science editors stressed networking and multiuser systems used by collectives. He concludes the Soviet government is trying "to create a computer culture" in the Soviet Union. (Reported in Technology Review edited at M.I.T.)

● Researchers at Netherlands' Philips Research Laboratories have discovered combinations of semiconductor materials that could eventually lead to home recording of compact discs and videodisks with laser beam optical technology. Present home-use CD systems do not record ...only play pre-recorded compact discs.

● The recently concluded Comdex/Fall Computer Show held in Las Vegas was a smashing success with more than 90,000 enthusiastic attendees and 1,500 exhibitors - a record. Some visitors said it was too big. IBM made everyone aware that they have shipped over one million PS/2 microcomputers - over 300,000 of them with their proprietary "Micro Channel" architecture that theoretically can't be cloned since they own the patents. Still several chip makers are readying Micro Channel sets. Every exhibitor seemed to be pushing 80386 PCs. Intel says they will ship two million of the chips next year and hinted at a new 80486 microprocessor to be brought out in 1989. The million transistor IC will be the equivalent of a mainframe-on-a-chip. Some companies showed laser printers that print in color. The worldwide PC market was put at \$35 billion - 20% owned by IBM. It didn't even exist a scant ten years ago.

● Federal Register of Nov. 9th tells how the FCC has reversed itself on broadcast call sign assignments. On February 4, 1987, the FCC had proposed (among other things) to end its issuance of "W" and "K" call signs on a geographical basis. As a general rule (and there are exceptions), radio/television stations east of the Mississippi River are issued call signs that begin with "W" ...west of the Mississippi the prefix is "K". Due to the comments received, this policy will be continued.

10 or more Quantity \$3.00 plus postage  
5-9 \$2.50  
1 Ea. \$4.00  
Test Manual: Price  
RADIO OPERATOR CLASSES? ve t  
W5... FEC  
HO...G...MATEUR  
and low prices  
students



● AT&E Corporation (San Francisco) is set to market a two-way wireless communications wristwatch which works similar to a pager. The patented "Receptor" allows a sender to key in a coded alpha-numeric message to an FM radio station using a touch-tone telephone. The FM station then transmits the message on its unused subcarrier to the display face on the wristwatch worn by the person on the receiving end. An audible alarm advises the wearer that a message has been delivered. The watch numbers each message which can be scrolled and recalled later. AT&E is in the process of leasing subcarrier space on FM stations across the country. The (\$150) wristwatch is being manufactured by Seiko of Japan which also owns stock in the venture. The "Receptor" automatically recalibrates when you cross time zones since it is linked to local FM radio station time. It should be available in about six months. Seattle has been selected as the initial test market. AT&E is traded on the American Stock Exchange.

● The District of Columbia has enacted new regulations that allows "976-audiotex" providers to pay a "transport fee" to - rather than split revenues with - the telephone company. "976" telephone prefix services are best known for their adult messages (commonly called "dial-a-porn") but there are many other "976" telephone pay-messages provided such as sports results, financial advice, horoscopes ...and the like. The local DC phone company hopes to broaden the scope of 976-audiotex calling to include a variety of interactive financial, marketing, consulting and information services. There is even a plan to order groceries via a "976" number with the grocery charges appearing on next month's phone bill!

● Reagan announced on Tuesday, November 10th, that he wants Congress to pass sweeping obscenity legislation that would stiffen criminal penalties, outlaw "dial-a-porn" telephone operations and eliminate skin-flicks from cable-TV. Reagan also suggested that the government should be authorized to seize the assets of violators of obscenity laws - including those of broadcasters. FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick said his agency is trying to resolve the indecency issue without threatening First Amendment freedoms.

● France, as reported by USA Today, has the answer to the FCC's dilemma on what to do about sexually oriented "976" U.S. phone calls. France is considering a 33% "sex tax" on their 4-year old unregulated, state-owned computer shopping videotex network known as Minitel. More than \$100 million of Minitel's revenue is generated from "messengeries" ...services which put lonely heart users in touch with others for computerized "conversations". In France, videotex dialogue is considered the same as a private phone call. A boom in sex-oriented videotex services is pushing French legislators to the sex tax.

● And speaking of taxes, the National Association of Broadcasters has suggested a 1½-2% sales tax on sales of television sets, VCRs and radios to finance public broadcasting. This is the NAB's answer to Congress' suggestion that public broadcasting should be financed by taxing the sale of radio and television stations. A 2% sales tax would raise more than \$350 million during 1988. The NAB pointed out that many nations license television sets to raise revenue - including Britain and France. (A color TV set user's fee in England costs about \$97 annually.)

● At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the FCC has proposed a new National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) telecommunications priority system. The new rules are intended to establish a system of priorities for restoring failed telecommunications services both before and after invocation of the President's war emergency powers.

● The "Baby Bells" are not happy that they are outlawed from providing computerized information services, long distance service or manufacturing equipment. The "Baby Bells" are the seven regional Bell Telephone Systems that were spun off after the 1984 breakup of AT&T. They plan to appeal Judge Greene's ruling on First Amendment grounds.

● Laser printers and desktop publishing systems are already revolutionizing the black and white printing business! But it is only the beginning! Soon desktop printers will offer 600 dpi (dots per inch) or better output resolution ...twice today's quality. The cost of color printing will nosedive. New color



December 1, 1987

graphics software is being developed to translate the RGB (red-green-blue) TV guns in video monitors to four-color separation codes needed to produce all printed colors. Completely eliminated will be the highest cost of full color printing ...four-color (cyan/magenta/yellow/black) separations.

● What to buy the little ones for Christmas? Newest toys for little girls are high-tech interactive dolls that electronically respond to touch and voices. Playmates Toys' "Jill" and Worlds-of-Wonder "Julie" react to speech. Through an "imprint chip" Julie can actually recognize its owner and answer questions. It can sense heat, cold, light, darkness and movements - and warns when its batteries are low. Julie asks for a sweater when temperatures drop or "Where are we going?" when it senses movement. (Julie has 64K of memory and a 32-bit Texas Instruments microprocessor.) Mattel's "Baby Heather" can cough, sneeze and hiccup. Coleco's "Talking Cabbage Patch Kids" respond to touch. Cost ranges from \$70 to \$200 each. "Captain Power", a hand-held jet fighter that fires at a TV show or video tape is this year's high-tech hot item for boys. A U.S. Court of Appeals recently ruled that toymaker, Mattel, must be identified as the producer of the show they supply in exchange for advertising time.

● Indesys, a Sunnyvale, California, company has developed a unique direct-to-PC data distribution system using FM subcarrier technology. An FM radio receiver is built into an add-in card that you install in your microcomputer. The board and receiving software costs about \$500. Transmission charges are about 10¢ a page. System, which can even store data directed to it when computer is turned off, is aimed at companies needing to transmit data to multiple local locations.

● "Quick-Response" electronic merchandising is doing for the soft-goods industry what food bar-coding does for grocers. Quick-Response links the retailer, distributor and textile mill via computers. Apparel factories quickly and automatically respond to coded garments sold or inventoried. Theoretically, eliminated are out-of-stocks, color/size imbalances, clearance markdowns and inefficient inventory management. Smaller stores use

"Telerep" to transmit inventory data over the phone lines. Retailers report double-digit sales increases on less inventory!

● "Flowers-by-Wire" isn't new - but "Books-by-Wire" is. Two Fort Lauderdale (Florida) flower delivery executives hit upon the idea as an answer to the last-minute (or late) gift problem. They are lining up independent booksellers to join their program.

## CALLING THE 900-NUMBER COMPUTER....

Use of "900" phone numbers has increased 95% in the past 24-months! These are the phone calls the caller pays 50¢ to \$2.00 to make. Like 800-service, there are several companies that offer 900-number phone programs. Some schemes instruct callers to send in their phone bill with the call circled so the company can reimburse with discount coupons. Marketing firms are using "900" programs to gather demographic/geographic sales/research information at little cost. "900" service differs from "800" service in that a single 900-number can take 7,200 simultaneous calls without a human operator.

With a 900-number, cost is tied to calls received. Sponsor pays AT&T (who has a virtual 900-number monopoly) \$500 for 2000 daily calls (whether they are made or not) and then shares revenue with phone company on excess calls.

AT&T offers two types of 900-services. "Call-Count" is for polling. Two different 900-numbers are needed to keep track of yes/no voting. Interactive "Call-Processing" allows users to respond to touch-tone reading computers or voice-recognition equipment offered by other firms. Users frequently do not even know when they are talking to a computer. 900-numbers can cut away to a live operator if needed.

Phoneworks, (Hackensack, N.J.) has a toll-free demonstration available of their interactive touch-tone service. (1-800-433-4498.) Conversational Voice Technologies Corp. (Gurnee, Ill) has a similar demonstration of interactive voice technology at 1-800-552-5519. They are very impressive to participate in!